

REMARKS

Claims 16-22 are pending. The abstract has been amended. No new matter is presented.

The drawings were objected to for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the coat layer of claim 21 is not shown in the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The specification states “[I]t is also possible to form the surface layer 22 which includes the elastic layer formed from any of the above elastic materials, and a coat layer such as formed from, for example, a polyurethane resin, acrylic resin, phenol resin, silicone resin, polycarbonate resin, butadiene rubber, nitrile rubber, acrylic rubber or the like and laid over the elastic layer” (paragraph [0053]). Accordingly, layer 22, clearly shown in Fig. 2, includes the coat layer. Thus, the coat layer is actually shown in the drawings. Applicants therefore request that this objection be withdrawn.

The abstract was objected to for being not descriptive. The abstract has been amended herein. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurokawa, U.S. Patent 5,619,311 in view of Kasuya, U.S. Patent 5,571,653. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Kurokawa teaches everything except the claimed type of toner. The Examiner asserts that the claimed developing device is shown as elements 2405, 3105 and 3403. Applicants respectfully disagree.

According to Kurokawa, element 2405 represents a developing unit (col. 15, lines 15-16). Element 3105 is also a developing unit, but it is shown in Fig. 11 and corresponds to the description of a different embodiment of the image forming apparatus (col. 16, lines 10-12). Element 3403 also represents a developing unit of a different embodiment shown in Fig. 14 (col. 18, lines 26-27). Thus, at most, Kurokawa shows an element which corresponds to the developer

carrying member 11 of the claimed invention. Kurokawa, however, fails to teach or suggest the claimed regulating member disposed in contacting relation with the surface of the developer carrying member. Kurokawa also fails to teach or suggest the storage portion for storing the toner. Kasuya likewise fails to teach or suggest these features.

Notwithstanding the above failure of both of the cited references to actually teach or suggest the features of independent claims 16 and 22, Applicants respectfully submit that there would have been no motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modifying the teachings of Kurokawa to use the toner disclosed in Kasuya. Kurokawa is completely unconcerned with they type of toner used. Kurokawa is related to the roller charging apparatus and does not even show all of the features of a completely operational image forming apparatus. If one of ordinary skill in the art were to modify the Kurokawa reference, it would not be to specify a type of toner. There would be no purpose to this since, as stated, Kurokawa is only concerned with the properties of the charging roller, which are totally unrelated to the type of toner used. This is evidenced by the complete lack of mention of any toner properties whatsoever within the Kurokawa reference.

Furthermore, the Examiner's reason for modifying Kurokawa to utilize the toner disclosed in Kasuya is stated to be because the toner of Kasuya exhibits good fixing efficiency since it does not stick to a fixing member. Again, Kurokawa is directed to the charging roller (see the entire Summary of the Invention) and does not discuss or concern itself with the fixing property of the toner. Thus, even if all of the claimed features were taught by Kurokawa except the toner type, there would have been no reason to modify Kurokawa in light of Kasuya to use the claimed type of toner.

In light of the foregoing, claims 16-22 are not taught or suggested by the cited art, either alone or in combination. Furthermore, there would have been no reason to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.


In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 32577-2026410.

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